

Message Text

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DEPARTMENT TRANSPORTATION

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRN, GW
SUBJECT: ELECTRIC CAR SYSTEM AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 049807

1. DURING CALL AT MINISTRY OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY (MORT), FRENZEL TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE) HAS PROPOSED COOPERATION BETWEEN DOE AND MORT ON ELECTRIC CAR SYSTEMS.

2. FRENZEL NOTED THE MANY PROBLEMS INHERENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIALLY FEASIBLE ELECTRIC CARS, PARTICULARLY THE LACK OF A BREAKTHROUGH ON BATTERIES. HE NOTED THAT FOR COOPERATION IN THIS FIELD MORT NEEDED FUNDING FROM PARLIAMENT. FRENZEL EXPLAINED THAT HE WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY IN JUSTIFYING SUCH A PROGRAM TO THE POLITICIANS UNLESS THEY SAW COMMERCIALLY FEASIBLE ELECTRIC VEHICLES AS A PRODUCT OF THE RESEARCH.

3. FRENZEL ASKED EMBOFF TO QUERIE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AS TO WHETHER DOT IS INVOLVED AND WHAT ARE DOT'S COMMENTS/OPINIONS ON THIS PROJECT. FRENZEL NOTED THAT IF DOT AND DOE WORK TOGETHER ON THIS PROJECT, AS
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MORT DOES WITH THE FRG MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION, ELECTRIC CAR SYSTEM COOPERATION COULD BE PLACED UNDER TOPIC C OF THE 1973 AGREEMENT.

4. COMMENT: DOE SCI-REP HAS DISCUSSED SUBJECT OF POSSIBLE DOE-MORT AGREEMENTS ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS WITH DRS. FRENZEL, BANDL AND MUELLER-HELLE OF

MORT, RELATIVE TO ELECTRIC HYBRID AND HYDRIDE VEHICLE DEVELOPMENTS. PROPOSED DOE-MORT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REVIEWED BY MORT. THE MORT IS NOW RAISING THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE COOPERATION BY DOE AND DOT FOR THE US UNDER THE EXISTING DOT AGREEMENT. THE MORT FEELS IT MAY HAVE DIFFICULTY OBTAINING PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL OF A SEPARATE AGREEMENT WITH DOE ON THIS SUBJECT.

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